



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. JURY FINDS BRONXVILLE MAN GUILTY OF JUNE 2001
ATTEMPTED ROBBERY AND SHOOTING OF MAHOPAC TAVERN OWNER**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, today announced that LAWRENCE SAVOCA, 38, of Bronxville, New York, was found guilty by a jury after a two-week trial in White Plains federal court of conspiracy, attempted robbery and weapons charges stemming from the June 21, 2001, attempted robbery of Michael Geary of the cash proceeds of the Rhino Grill, Mahopac, New York, in the course of which Mr. Geary was shot.

According to Mr. KELLEY, on April 22 of this year, SALVATORE SAVOCA, the defendant's brother and codefendant, pled guilty to the attempted robbery as well as a related weapons charge and indicated during his guilty plea that it was he who had fired the gun during the course of the commission of that crime. SALVATORE SAVOCA was called as a defense witness at LAWRENCE SAVOCA's trial and claimed that his accomplice in the

robbery was someone other than his brother. In convicting the defendant on all charges against him, the jury necessarily rejected that testimony.

At the time of the commission of the instant offenses, LAWRENCE SAVOCA was on lifetime parole as a result of convictions on multiple counts of burglary in Westchester County Court in 1991.

LAWRENCE SAVOCA faces a maximum prison term of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the conspiracy charge and a maximum prison term of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the felon in possession of a weapon charge. Additionally, both defendants face maximum prison terms of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the attempted robbery charge, and prison terms of 10 years to life and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the charge stemming from the discharge of the weapon during the course of the attempted robbery.

LAWRENCE SAVOCA is to be sentenced before United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON at 10:00 a.m. on September 10, 2004. SALVATORE SAVOCA is to be sentenced before Judge ROBINSON at 9:00 a.m. on July 22, 2004.

Mr. KELLEY praised Town of Carmel Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for their efforts during the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ELLIOTT B. JACOBSON and JONATHAN LEIKEN are in charge of the prosecution.

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